

Attorney General

(Amounts In Thousands)

Funding History

	FY90			FY01	FY02	FY03
GF/GP	\$23,713.0			\$35,271.0	\$35,475.3	\$35,200.7
All Funds	\$32,471.3			\$61,563.5	\$62,900.5	\$62,838.9
	% Change - GF/GP				0.6%	-0.8%
	% Change - All Funds				2.2%	-0.1%

KEY ISSUES	GF/GP	All Funds
Adjustments To Reflect End of 1997 Early Retirement Payouts	(\$91.8)	(\$159.9)
Economic Adjustments	\$103.8	\$384.9
Staff Reductions Needed To Pay For Employee Economic (4.5 FTE's)	<u>(\$286.6)</u>	<u>(\$286.6)</u>
Subtotal	(\$274.6)	(\$61.6)
FY 2003 Executive Recommendation	\$35,200.7	\$62,838.9

Department of Attorney General

As the State of Michigan's chief law enforcement officer, the Attorney General upholds and preserves the state's legal interests. To accomplish this, the Attorney General provides legal advice and representation to state officials and agencies and, when warranted, initiates legal action on behalf of the citizens of Michigan.



The Governor's fiscal year 2003 budget recommendation for the Attorney General is \$62.8 million, of which \$35.2 million is general fund.

Achievements of the Last Decade

The Attorney General pursues legal actions against individuals and organizations that have harmed the interests of the public, including the continued enforcement of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, originally signed in 1998. Enforcement issues include preventing violations of billboard advertisement restrictions, monitoring non-participating manufacturer sales, and discouraging sales of tobacco products to children.

The prosecution of computer crime is a major priority of the Attorney General. Working in conjunction with the Michigan State Police, the Attorney General dedicates staff to investigate and prosecute computer-related crimes. The department has prosecuted and convicted criminals who have defrauded Internet users or solicited to manufacture controlled substances such as GHB, known as the date rape drug. The department also investigates and files charges related to child pornography, transmission of computer viruses, fraud, privacy violations, identity theft, hacking and other unauthorized intrusions. Besides investigating and prosecuting cyber crimes, training and assistance is provided to other law enforcement agencies in the state.

During the last decade, the Administration has recommended and the Legislature has supported funding increases to assist the Attorney General with upholding and preserving the state's legal interests. A few of the initiatives that have received increased funding include:

- Increased investigation and prosecution of financial crimes;
- Increased investigation of health care providers;
- Increased support for drug enforcement purposes;
- Enhanced casino gaming oversight activities; and
- Expanded legal services for children and youth.

Response to Revenue Decline

During the past year, state agencies were forced to reduce spending in order to bring expenditures in line with available revenues. By instituting various administrative efficiencies and managing staff vacancies, the Attorney General was able to maintain core services.

Summary of Fiscal Year 2003 Executive Budget

The fiscal year 2003 budget recommendation represents continuation level funding. As with all agencies, the Governor recommends the elimination of 4.5 staff positions in order to fund employee economics.

Program Outcomes	Fiscal Year			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Maintain or reduce the amount of court judgments or settlements paid as a percentage of total settlements sought by plaintiffs:				
✎ Corrections	2%	0.3%	<5%	<5%
✎ Community Health	3%	4.9%	<10%	<10%
✎ Tort Defense	5%	13%	<30%	<30%
Maintain or increase percentage of child custody recommendations upheld by court:				
✎ Wayne County Family Court	96.2%	97.3%	>95%	>95%
✎ Michigan Court of Appeals	97.4%	93.5%	>90%	>90%
✎ Michigan Supreme Court	100%	100%	>67%	>67%
Maintain or increase the amount of revenue collected as a result of lawsuits filed at the request of client agencies				
	\$34.1 million	\$24.9 million	\$23 million	\$23 million
Reduce or maintain the average time necessary to issue a formal legal opinion				
	65 days	65 days	65 days	65 days